

Blake Lively Moves to Ban Justin Baldoni from Media Case

Description

The legal representatives of Blake Lively have expressed their discontent regarding the public relations maneuvers employed by Justin Baldoni and his attorney, Bryan Freedman.

In a <u>communication</u> directed to a federal judge on Tuesday evening, Lively's legal team contended that Freedman's actions contravene the New York Rules of Professional Conduct by improperly engaging in public discourse regarding their ongoing legal dispute.

Freedman has embarked on an extensive media campaign following Lively's allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation against her "It Ends With Us" co-star last month. Renowned for his proficiency in navigating celebrity legal dilemmas, Freedman has vigorously defended Baldoni, disseminating an array of evidence purporting to undermine Lively's claims.

Tensions escalated on Tuesday when Freedman publicly released a ten-minute segment of unedited footage from a pivotal slow dance scene in the film. While Lively previously asserted that Baldoni had harassed her during its filming, Freedman asserted that the footage depicted standard professional conduct.

In reaction to this release, Lively's attorneys alleged that Freedman had selectively leaked discovery items and petitioned Judge Lewis J. Liman to convene a hearing to evaluate the propriety of counsel's conduct.

Conversely, sources affiliated with Baldoni maintained that imposing restrictions on Freedman would be exceedingly unjust, as he is merely safeguarding his client against Lively's purportedly defamatory "takedown campaign," which was initiated through a detailed exposé in the New York Times.

Baldoni's legal team is reportedly in the process of establishing a website to disseminate further information intended to counter Lively's charges.

It is important to note that Lively's representatives are not, at least at this juncture, explicitly seeking a comprehensive gag order to restrain Freedman from engaging with the media. The New York Rules of Professional Conduct do indeed permit attorneys to make declarative statements out of court to protect their clients from adverse publicity.

Nevertheless, Lively's legal team intends to invoke the rule that prohibits public pronouncements likely to unduly influence potential jurors. They are also pursuing protective measures designed to prevent the dissemination of discovery materials associated with the case.

"Federal litigation must be conducted *in court* and in accordance with the pertinent professional standards," Lively's attorneys articulated in their correspondence.

Additionally, Lively's team dispatched two cease-and-desist missives to Freedman in December, asserting that his public declarations perpetuate a retaliatory campaign against Lively in response to her initial harassment allegations.

"Lawyers must not serve as agents of publicity," they stated definitively. "Our conduct is governed by a



distinctive set of professional standards separate from those applied to publicists and crisis management professionals."

Despite their efforts, the impact of these cease-and-desist letters appears to have been negligible.

Vocabulary List:

- 1. Maneuvers /məˈnu:.vərz/ (noun): Careful or skillful movements strategies or tactics.
- 2. **Discontent** /,dis.kən'tɛnt/ (noun): A feeling of dissatisfaction or unhappiness.
- 3. **Contend** /kən'tɛnd/ (verb): To assert or maintain a position in an argument.
- 4. **Propriety** /prə'praɪ.ə.ti/ (noun): Conformity to established standards of good or proper behavior.
- 5. Retaliatory /rɪ'tæl.i.ə,tɔ:r.i/ (adjective): Characterized by or involving retaliation.
- 6. Vigorously /'vɪg.ər.əs.li/ (adverb): In a way that is strong healthy and full of energy.

NEWS.COM **Comprehension Questions**

Multiple Choice

1. Who expressed discontent regarding the public relations maneuvers employed by Baldoni and Freedman?

Option: Blake Lively Option: Justin Baldoni Option: Bryan Freedman Option: Judge Lewis J. Liman

2. What did Freedman release, causing tensions to escalate?

Option: Previous court judgments Option: Selective discovery items

Option: His attorney fees Option: Social media posts

3. What do Lively's attorneys intend to invoke to prevent undue influence on potential jurors?

Option: Right to remain silent

Option: Gag order

Option: Public pronouncements rule Option: Social media counter-campaign



4. What action did Lively's team take against Freedman in December?

Option: Sent a gift basket

Option: Filed a defamation lawsuit

Option: Dispatched cease-and-desist missives Option: Launched a promotional campaign

5. What standard did Lively's team assert their conduct is governed by?

Option: Public Relations Standards Option: Crisis Management Guidelines Option: Distinctive Professional Standards

Option: Celebrity Legal Protocols

6. What was the impact of the cease-and-desist letters sent to Freedman?

Option: Negligible Option: Significant Option: Legal action Option: Public apology

True-False

- NEWS.COM 7. Freedman publicly released a ten-minute segment of edited footage from a pivotal scene in the film.
- 8. Lively's team explicitly sought a comprehensive gag order to restrain Freedman from engaging with the media.
- 9. Baldoni's legal team is not taking any actions to counter Lively's charges.
- 10. Lively's legal team aims to prevent the dissemination of discovery materials associated with the case.
- 11. Availability of evidence to undermine Lively's claims has not been mentioned in the text.
- 12. The New York Rules of Professional Conduct permit attorneys to make public statements out of court to protect their clients from adverse publicity.

Gap-Fill



13. Freedman embarked on an extensive media campaign following Lively's allegations of sexual
harassment and retaliation against her "It Ends With Us" co-star last
14. Lively's legal team intends to invoke the rule that prohibits public pronouncements likely to unduly
influence potential
15. Despite their efforts, the impact of the cease-and-desist letters appears to have been
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16. Baldoni's legal team is reportedly in the process of establishing a website to disseminate further
information intended to counter Lively's
17. In reaction to Freedman's release, Lively's attorneys alleged that he had selectively leaked discovery
items and petitioned Judge Lewis J. Liman to convene a hearing to evaluate the propriety of
''s conduct.
18. Lively's team dispatched two cease-and-desist missives to Freedman in

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Blake Lively 2. Selective discovery items 3. Public pronouncements rule 4. Dispatched cease-and-desist missives 5. Distinctive Professional Standards 6. Negligible

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. month 14. jurors 15. negligible 16. charges 17. counsel 18. December

Answer

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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